Please add the following new claims 9-25 as follows:

17 ~~9~~. (New) A process for minimizing thermal aggregation of DNase in a liquid solution comprising introducing a DNase aggregation-inhibiting amount of sugar to a solution comprising DNase, and elevating the temperature of said DNase solution above 37°C temperature.

18 ~~10~~. (New) A process according to claim 17 ~~9~~, wherein the temperature of said solution is elevated above about 60°C.

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19 ~~11~~. (New) A process according to claim 17 ~~9~~, further comprising reducing the pH of said solution below pH 7.0.

20 ~~12~~. (New) A process according to claim 19 ~~11~~, wherein said solution is at about pH 6.5.

21 ~~13~~. (New) A process according to claim 19 ~~11~~, wherein said solution is at about pH 6.

22 ~~14~~. (New) A process according to claim 19 ~~11~~, wherein said solution is at about pH 5.

23 ~~15~~. (New) A process according to claim 17 ~~9~~, wherein said sugar is present in an amount from 50 mg/ml to 200 mg/ml.

24
16. (New) A process according to claim 9, wherein said sugar is α-lactose monohydrate, mannitol, trehalose or sucrose.

25
17. (New) The process according to claim 9, further comprising the steps of spray-drying said liquid solution and collecting the spray-dried product as a respirable DNase-containing powder that is therapeutically effective when administered into the lung of an individual.

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18. (New) A DNase solution comprising DNase and a DNase aggregation-inhibiting amount of sugar wherein said DNase solution is minimally aggregated when said solution is at a temperature greater than 37°C.

27
19. (New) A DNase solution according to claim 18, wherein the temperature is greater than about 60°C.

28
20. (New) A DNase solution according to claim 18, wherein said solution is further kept at a pH below 7.0.

29
21. (New) A DNase solution according to claim 20, wherein said solution is at about pH 6.5.

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22. (New) A DNase solution according to claim 20, wherein said solution is at about pH 6.